Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 46. (Canceled).

47. (Currently Amended) A medical device for visually indicating a temperature of a medical item placed therein comprising:

a base and at least first and second panels attached to said base;

a receptacle defined between said first and second panels for receiving said medical item within said ~~base~~ receptacle, wherein said medical item has a particular temperature range for utilization; and

a temperature sensor assembly to directly measure medical item temperature and visually indicate said measured medical item temperature;

wherein said medical device is configured such that any thermal treatment of said medical item received within said receptacle occurs only via heat transfer between said medical item and an external environment surrounding said medical device.

48. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes a temperature sensor disposed within said first panel to directly measure said medical item temperature.

49. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 48 wherein said receptacle is configured to enable said medical item to be in thermal relation with said temperature sensor in said first panel to facilitate temperature measurement.

50. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes a plurality of temperature sensitive substances each associated with a corresponding temperature range, wherein each said substance is responsive to a temperature of said medical item and provides a visual indication of said medical item temperature when said medical item temperature is within said corresponding temperature range.

51. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes a temperature sensing strip providing a digital indication of said medical item temperature.

52. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes a display to visually indicate said medical item temperature.

53. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said first panel includes a handle to facilitate transport and handling of said medical device.

54. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said medical device is attached to a support structure.

55. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said medical device is attached to a thermal treatment system.

56. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 52 wherein said display includes a liquid crystal display.

57. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes a voice synthesizer to provide an audio indication of said medical item temperature.

58. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes an infra-red temperature sensor.

59. (Currently Amended) A method of visually indicating a temperature of a medical item placed in a medical device, wherein said medical device includes a base and at least first and second panels attached to said base and a receptacle defined between said first and second panels, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving said medical item within said receptacle defined between said first and second panels of said device, wherein said medical item has a particular temperature range for utilization; and

(b) directly measuring medical item temperature and providing a visual indication of said measured medical item temperature via a temperature sensor assembly;

wherein said medical device is configured such that any thermal treatment of said medical item received within said receptacle occurs only via heat transfer between said medical item and an external environment surrounding said medical device.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes a temperature sensor disposed within said first panel, and step (b) further includes:

(b.1) directly measuring said medical item temperature via said temperature sensor.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said receptacle is configured to enable said medical item to be in thermal relation with said temperature sensor in said first panel to facilitate temperature measurement.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes a plurality of temperature sensitive substances each associated with a corresponding temperature range, wherein each said substance is responsive to a temperature of said medical item, and step (b) further includes:

(b.1) measuring and visually indicating said medical item temperature via each temperature sensitive substance when said medical item temperature is within a corresponding temperature range of that substance.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes a temperature sensing strip, and step (b.1) further includes:

(b.1.1) measuring said medical item temperature and providing a digital indication of said measured temperature via said temperature sensing strip.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said temperature sensor assembly includes a display, and step (b) further includes:

(b.1) visually indicating said medical item temperature via said display.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said first panel includes a handle, and step (a) further includes:

(a.1) transporting and handling said medical device via said handle.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein step (a) further includes:

(a.1) attaching said medical device to a support structure.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein step (a) further includes:

(a.1) attaching said medical device to a thermal treatment system.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein step (b) further includes:

(b.1) providing an audio indication of said medical item temperature via a voice synthesizer.

69. (New) The medical device of claim 47, wherein said temperature sensor assembly is affixed to one of said first panel, said second panel and said base.

70. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein said temperature sensor assembly is affixed to one of said first panel, said second panel and said base.

71. (New) A medical device for visually indicating a temperature of a medical item placed therein comprising:

a base and at least first and second panels attached to said base;

a receptacle defined between said first and second panels for receiving said medical item within said receptacle, wherein said medical item has a particular temperature range for utilization; and

a temperature sensor assembly to directly measure medical item temperature and visually indicate said measured medical item temperature, wherein said temperature sensor assembly is affixed to one of said first panel, said second panel and said base.

72. (New) A method of visually indicating a temperature of a medical item placed in a medical device, wherein said medical device includes a base and at least first and second panels attached to said base and a receptacle defined between said first and second panels, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving said medical item within said receptacle defined between said first and second panels of said device, wherein said medical item has a particular temperature range for utilization; and

(b) directly measuring a medical item temperature and providing a visual indication of said measured medical item temperature via a temperature sensor assembly, wherein the temperature sensor assembly is affixed to one of the first panel, the second panel and the base.